

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 /020 W

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R 100800Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1633

INFO DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, WASH., D.C.

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

US CUSTOMS SERVICE, WWASH., D.C.

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 3496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS TRAINING

DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM

DEA FOR DEA/TRI

US CUSTOMS SERVICE FOR USCS/INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

VIENNA FOR DEA AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR

REF: STATE 284346

1. FOLLOWING AARE REPLIES TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTTEL;

A) HOST GOVERNMENT HAS NO NARCOTICS PROGRAM PER SE.

B) MINIMAL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION TRAINING IS PROVIDED AS
PART OF OVERALL CZECHOSLOVAK CENTRAL CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION(CCA)
TRAINING FOR BORDER GUARDS AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

C) GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FALLS UNDER THE AEGIS
OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR--AN AGENCY WHICH HAS BOTH POLICE
AND INTERNAL SECURITY FUNCTIONS AND DOES NOT READILY PROVIDE
INFORMATION TO THE EMBASSY. HOWEVER, JUDGING FROM DISCUSSIONS
WITH CCA AND OTHER OFFICIALS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, FROM THE
READILY APPARENT NUMEROUS AND DISCIPLINED POLICE FORCES STATIONED
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, ONE CONCLUDES THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING IS PROBABLY BOTH EXCELLENT AND EXTENSIVE.

D) INFORMATION ON GENERAL TRAINING LEVEL OF INSTRUCTORS
IS NOT AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY.

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E) NO FORMAL NARCOTICS TRAINING HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO CZECH CUSTOMS/POLICE FORCES BY US OR UN AGENCIES WITHIN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

F) N/A

G) THE GOC PROBABLY WOULD NOT ACCEPT A PROGRAM TO DEVELOP ITS OWN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING UNLESS OTHER EE COUNTRIES, AND PARTICULARLY THE SOVIET UNION, ALSO ACCEPTED SUCH A PROGRAM. SINCE THE 1968 SOVIET INTERVENTION, CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS BEEN AMONG THE MOST CONSERVATIVE OF THE EE COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF ACCEPTANCE OF WESTERN PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES. PRAGUE WOULD LOOK TO MOSCOW FOR LEADERSHIP IN WHAT IT PERCEIVES TO BE MAINLY AN INTERNAL SECURITY QUESTION.

H) GIVEN THE LOCAL POLITICAL CLIMATE; THE LACK OF SERIOUS NARCOTICS USAGE; THE CZECHOSLOVAK VIEW OF NARCOTICS INTERDICTION AS AN INTERNAL OR, AT MMST, A REGIONAL SECURITY MATTER; AND, THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION, ANY DIRECT US INITIATIVE/PROPOSAL ON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING IS LIKELY TO BE REJECTED. THE EMBASSY, ALTERNATIVELY, SUGGESTS AN INDIRECT APPROACH; THROUGH THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND AUSTRIA, IN ADDITION TO SHARING A LONG BORDER, HAVE MANY HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TIES. A GRADUAL PROGRAM OF COOPERATION AND INFORMATION-SHARING ON A STRICTLY APOLITICAL, LAW ENFORCEMENT BASIS BETWEEN THE TWO CUSTOMS SERVICES COULD FORM THE FOUNDATION FOR JOINT NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS. SUCH REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH A NEUTRAL COUNTRY WOULD PRESENT A SAFER COURSE FOR THE GOC. AND, GIVEN THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS ENJOYED BY USDEA AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WITH THEIR AUSTRIAN COUNTERPARTS, THE USG WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE CONTENT OF SUCH TRAINING PROGRAMS.

I) AS NOTED, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS JOINT CZECHOSLOVAK/AUSTRIAN NARCOTICS TRAINING EFFORTS. ANY ATTEMPT TO PROJECT CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS A FORMAL DISPENSER OF SUCH TRAINING SHOULD BE VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED: THE SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS WOULD BE POOR AND ASSUMPTIONS SUCH A ROLE WOULD PROVIDE CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH LEVERAGE WHICH COULD BE USED IN WAYS DETRIMENTAL TO OVERALL US INTERESTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PERSONNEL TRAINING, DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE03496
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760456-0614
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761254/aaaabuhx.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 284346
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS TRAINING DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM DEA FOR DEA/TRI
TAGS: SNAR, CZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006